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EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/997,773	Applicant(s) LOYENS ET AL.	
	Examiner Tadesse Hailu	Art Unit 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the patent application number 09/997,773 filed November 30, 2001.

Drawings

2. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Status of the claims

3. The pending claims 1-47 are examined herein as follows.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: a spelling error is shown in line 2. "teh" should be replaced by --the--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 2173

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 17, 18, 19, 22-34, 37-39, 41-45, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Guerrero (US Pat No 6,236,400).

The present invention and Guerrero are directed to the same invention that is to a system and method for presenting information organized by hierarchical levels through the computer user interface. Likewise Guerrero anticipates most of the claimed subject matter of the present invention as follows.

With regard to claim 1:

Guerrero discloses a user interface (vertical browser, **502**, Figs. 5, and 6A-F) for displaying information organized with multiple hierarchy levels (column 6, lines 27-46).

The user interface (vertical browser) further includes a root node navigation bar (**608A**, Figs. 6A, 6B, 6D, and 6E) representing the root hierarchy level (column 7, lines 18-25).

The user interface also includes multiple sub-node navigation bars (**608B**, **608C**, Fig. 6B) stacked below the root node navigation bar, each sub-node navigation bar representing a sub-node from a selected level of the multiple hierarchy levels (column 8, lines 12-21;

Furthermore, Guerrero describes that hierarchical information is displayed efficiently such that information that is no longer needed is not displayed (column 3, lines 38-47). The vertical browser displays the user's traveled path, that is the user navigation path from the root node level to the one or more sub-nodes or sub levels (e.g., selected paths from *Root node (/)* to *Pipeplus*, *Pmail*, and *Resource* are shown)

Art Unit: 2173

(Fig. 6C). During the navigation and selection of the hierarchical tree (with a plurality of sub-node), the vertical browser only displays the traveled paths (or selected sub-nodes) excluding or removing all irrelevant sub-nodes, such as hiding all siblings of selected sub-nodes throughout the navigation (from root toward the lowest selected level) (column 3, lines 48-column 4, lines 29, column 8, lines 5-52, Figs. 6A-E).

With regard to claim 2:

Guerrero further discloses that the user interface (vertical browser 502) further includes information associated with a sub-node (e.g., *Pipeplus*, *Pmail* and *Resource*), the sub-node having the lowest selected hierarchy level. For example, as illustrated in Figs. 6A, 6B and 6C, the choices list **506** includes information associated with *Pipeplus*, *Pmail* and *Resource*, respectively (column 8, lines 5-63).

With regard to claim 4:

As illustrated in Figs. 6A-E, Guerrero further discloses that one or more of the navigation bars is operable to select display of labels for nodes from the root node to sub-nodes having a hierarchy level one level lower than the node associated with the selected navigation bar (column 7, lines 18-44, column 8, lines 5-52).

With regard to claim 6:

As illustrated in Figs. 5, and 6A-E, the user interface is a browser.

With regard to claim 11:

As illustrated in Fig. 7A-B, Guerrero discloses a method for presenting information organized by hierarchy levels (also illustrated in Figs. 6A-E).

Art Unit: 2173

The method also includes displaying a first hierarchy level having a first hierarchy label (Root node (/), Fig. 6A).

The method also includes displaying a second hierarchy level having multiple second hierarchy labels (*Pipeplus*, *Pmail*, and *Resource*, Figs. 6C).

The method also includes activating one of the second hierarchy labels (column 9, lines 12-23).

The method also includes displaying information associated with the activated Label. For example, as illustrated in Figs. 6A, 6B and 6C, the choices list **506** includes information associated with *Pipeplus*, *Pmail* and *Resource*, respectively (column 8, lines 5-63).

The method further includes hiding display of activated second hierarchy labels (column 3, lines 48-column 4, lines 29, column 8, lines 5-52, Figs. 6A-E).

With regard to claim 17:

As illustrated in Figs. 6A-E, the navigational bars (610A-F) are placed one bar on top of the other bar as a stacked box metaphor.

With regard to claim 18:

Guerrero discloses a file system (database) that allows a user to categorize or group files. For example, Fig. 1 provides an example of a non-homogeneous hierarchical file structure 102 that groups files into directories. Root 104 includes documents directory 106, applications directory 107, system directory 108 and root-level files 105 (column 1, lines 11-34).

Guerrero further discloses a vertical browser that is used to display hierarchical information (column 6, lines 39-46).

As illustrated in Fig. 4, Guerrero discloses a computer system including a CPU 413 (control) interfaced with a mass storage 412 (database) and the CRT 417 (display). The system generates interface (vertical browser) for presentation on the display (Figs. 6A-E).

The browser 502 includes a path list 504 that initially displays the root level of the file system hierarchy and choices list 506 that displays the root level's children. Furthermore, Guerrero describes that hierarchical information is displayed efficiently such that information that is no longer needed is not displayed (column 3, lines 38-47). As a choice is selected from choices list 506, it is added to path list 504 and the children of the choice are displayed in choices list 506. The browser further operable to hide child nodes of a selected node that is not relevant to the selected node having the lowest hierarchy level. As illustrated in FIGS. 6A-6D, only the selected path are displayed in the path list 504 the child nodes of the selected node are hidden from display.

With regard to claim 19:

Guerrero further discloses that the vertical browser (user Interface) further having predetermined information (see Figs. 6A-E) stacked below the sub-node having the lowest hierarchy Level (Figs. 6A-E), the predetermined information associated with the sub-node having the lowest hierarchy level (column 8, lines 22-52).

With regard to claim 22:

Guerrero discloses a program product for displaying hierarchy levels that organize information with multiple nodes (Figs. 6A-E).

Guerrero further discloses a storage medium (Fig. 4, 412) that stores computer readable instructions (column 1, lines 12-21).

Guerrero further discloses instructions (process flow of Figs 7A-B) stored on the storage medium, the instructions operable to command a computer to display selected nodes from first, second or third hierarchy levels (column 9, lines 1-67), the instructions selecting for display the nodes of the first and second hierarchy levels on a traversed path to the third hierarchy level (column 8, lines 53-63, column 9, lines 1-67),

With regard to claim 23:

Guerrero further discloses that the first hierarchy level comprises the root node (see Fig. 4, column 7, lines 10-16).

With regard to claim 24:

Guerrero further discloses that the second hierarchy level comprises multiple nodes (see Figs. 4, and 6A-E), the instructions commanding the computer to display the one of the multiple nodes of the second hierarchy level on the traversed path to the third hierarchy level and to hide the sibling nodes of the displayed node (column 3, lines 38-47, column 8, lines 53-63).

With regard to claim 25:

Guerrero further discloses that the third hierarchy level comprises information associated with a selected one of the nodes of the second hierarchy level. For example, the transition from Fig. 6A to Fig. 6B illustrates that the third hierarchy level,

Art Unit: 2173

Pmail comprises information associated with a selected one of the nodes (see Fig. 6A) of the second hierarchy level, which is *Pipeplus*.

With regard to claim 26:

Guerrero further discloses comprising multiple indices that organize the information of the third hierarchy level according to one or more attributes. As shown in Fig. 6C, 610A-E are multiple choices list or indices that organize the information of the third hierarchy level according to one or more attributes (such as file type).

With regard to claim 27:

Guerrero further discloses the third hierarchy level (e.g., Resource, Fig. 6C) comprises multiple nodes (e.g., rescom, rquotes.r, winpmdde, etc), the instructions further operable to accept a selection of one of the multiple nodes (see highlighted rquotes.r in choices list 506) of the third hierarchy level and to hide or remove the sibling nodes (e.g., rescom, winpmdde, etc) of the selected third hierarchy level node (column 3, lines 38-47, column 8, lines 22-63).

With regard to claim 28:

Guerrero further discloses an electronic display of data (vertical browser 502); the electronic display includes among other things a visual representation of a tree data structure having a root node (Fig. 6B, 608A) and multiple descendant nodes (Fig. 6B, 60bB-C); and Guerrero further discloses a visual representation of an index of data associated with a selected descendant node (Fig. 6B, 610B) (column 8, lines 12-21).

With regard to claim 29:

Art Unit: 2173

Guerrero further discloses that the visual representation of the tree data structure displays the descendant nodes on the traversed path from the root node to the selected descendant node and conceals or removes non relevant or siblings of the descendant nodes on the traversed path (column 3, lines 48-column 4, lines 29, column 8, lines 5-52, Figs. 6A-E).

With regard to claim 30:

Guerrero further discloses that the descendant nodes on the traversed path are selectable to display child nodes of the selected node (Figs. 6A-E, column 8, lines 12-21, 53-63).

With regard to claim 31:

Guerrero further discloses that the descendant nodes on the traversed path are selectable to display sibling nodes of the selected node (Figs. 6A-E, column 8, lines 12-21, 53-63).

With regard to claim 32:

Guerrero further discloses that the index comprises a visual representation of data (Figs. 6A-E).

With regard to claim 33:

Guerrero further discloses that the data nodes represent non-homogeneous classifiers (e.g. different information groups, Fig.4) and the index (e.g. as shown in Fig. 4, all 114-116 are all document type), which represents a homogeneous attribute (all leaf nodes 114-116 are documents).

With regard to claim 34:

Guerrero further discloses that the data is organized according to one or more document type attributes (Fig. 4).

With regard to claim 37:

Guerrero further discloses that the root node (/) and descendent nodes (*Pipeplus*, *Pmail*, *Resource*, and *rquotes.r*) are stacked in hierarchy level order (e.g. Fig. 6D).

With regard to claim 38:

Guerrero discloses a combination tree data structure (Figs. 6A-E) and index (the leaf nodes) capable of electronic visual display of information organized by hierarchy levels (Figs. 6A-E).

Guerrero further discloses a tree data structure having one or more nodes associated with each hierarchy level (Figs. 6A-E).

Guerrero further discloses an index of selected information (e.g. *Resource* of Fig. 6B) associated with a selected one of the nodes (e.g. *Pmail* of Fig. 6B), the index having a plurality of indices (that is selecting *Resource* index results in displaying a plurality of indices, such as *rescom*, *rquotes.r*, *winpmdde*, etc of Fig. 6C), each indice capable of displaying predetermined parts of the selected information (e.g. selecting *rquotes.r*, as shown in Fig. 6C, may display data associated with the index).

With regard to claim 39:

Guerrero further discloses that only the relevant nodes are displayed in the path list, the siblings of the selected node and the siblings of the ancestors of the selected

Art Unit: 2173

node which are not relevant are removed or are not displayed (column 3, lines 48- column 4, lines 29, column 8, lines 5-52, Figs. 6A-E).

With regard to claim 41:

Guerrero further discloses that the hierarchy levels correspond to different category of information (non-homogeneous classifiers) of the information (column 1, lines 28-42).

With regard to claim 42:

Guerrero further discloses that the indices correspond to one or more homogeneous attributes of the information (e.g. as shown in Fig. 4, all 114-116 are all document type), which represents a homogeneous attribute (all leaf nodes 114-116 are documents).

With regard to claim 43:

Guerrero discloses a method (Figs. 7A-B) of electronically displaying information.

The method includes among other things displaying a tree structure having a plurality of nodes (column 6, lines 52-63).

The method also includes selecting a node (column 7, lines 35-44, Figs. 6A-E).

The method also includes displaying an index associated with the selected node, the index having a plurality of indices (that is, selecting *Resource* index results in displaying a plurality of indices, such as *rescom*, *rquotes.r*, *winpmdde*, etc of Fig. 6C),

With regard to claim 44:

As illustrated in path list 504 (Figs. 6A-E) only the selected path nodes and the direct ancestors of the selected node are shown or display (column 8, lines 53-63).

With regard to claim 45:

As illustrated in Figs. 6A-E, the navigational bars (610A-F) are placed one bar on top of the other bar as a stacked box metaphor.

With regard to claim 47:

Guerrero further discloses that the vertical browser display a file system **102** that allows a user to categorize or group files. As illustrated in **Figs. 6A-F**, a representation of hierarchical file structure is grouped vertically into several different (non-homogeneous) directories and the directories includes uniform (homogeneous) child documents or leaf nodes (index) (column 6, lines 27-46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5, 8-10, 15, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerrero (US Pat No 6,236,400) in view of Chittu et al (US Pub No 2002/0107892).

With regard to claim 5:

While Guerrero discloses Object-oriented programming languages including C++, Objective C and the Java.TM (column 11, lines 1-5), but Guerrero does not disclose that the user interface or the vertical browser 502 is implemented with one of Win32, JavaSwing or DHTML. On the other hand, Chittu discloses DHTML controls

Art Unit: 2173

that are rendered on the screen using CSS layers in combination with HTML < DIV> tags (see paragraph [0081]).

Chittu and Guerrero are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is manipulating hierarchical tree structure.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the dynamic HTML (DHTML) controls as specified by Chittu with the object-oriented programming language of Guerrero.

The motivation/suggestion for doing so would have been to provide the Internet application (vertical browser) its own unique look and feel. This enables a software vendor to standardize the look and feel of all of the controls in its applications products. DHTML provides the ability to define a standard look and feel on an Internet platform (Chittu, paragraph [0079]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Guerrero with Janes to obtain the invention of claim 5.

With regard to claim 8:

Guerrero discloses a navigational bar (Figs. 6A-E). Guerrero also discloses that the navigation bar is selectable as illustrated via a position indicator, or marquee 622 (e.g., a dotted line marquee, is used to indicate the current position of the "cursor". But Guerrero does not show that an activation icon operable to display the hierarchy level associated with the sub-node of the navigation bar.

Chittu, on the other hand discloses a dynamic tree control system. The dynamic tree control system includes among other things, one or more tree node layers. Each

Art Unit: 2173

tree node layer in turn can contain a collapse layer 46 (activation icon), a node icon layer, and a caption on label layer (Chittu, Fig. 3). The collapse layer 46 when activated displays the hierarchy level associated with the sub-node of the navigation bar (see paragraphs [0087]).

Chittu and Guerrero are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is manipulating hierarchical tree structure.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the collapse layer (activation icon) of Chittu with path list 504 of the hierarchy tree as specified by Guerrero.

The motivation/suggestion for doing so would have been to save space during display of hierarchical application. That is, since hierarchical nodes are represented with a collapse layer (+/-), and since unselected intermediate node (siblings) are not displayed, the hierarchical application can be displayed in a minimum display area (Chittu, [0003]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Guerrero with Chittu to obtain the invention of claim 8.

With regard to claim 9:

Guerrero in view of Chittu discloses that the collapse layer (+/-) 46 (activation icon) (Fig. 3) is further operable to display sub-nodes of the activated icon. The collapse layer has a collapsing and expanding (+/-) function, wherein when a higher node is expanded associated lower nodes or sub-nodes will be shown (see Chittu, paragraph [0027], [0087]).

With regard to claim 10:

Guerrero in view of Chittu discloses that the activation icon is further operable to hide sibling nodes of the activated icon (see Chittu, paragraph [0027], [0087]).

With regard to claim 15:

Guerrero further discloses that activation of the second hierarchy label displays the third hierarchy level having multiple third hierarchy labels (Figs. 6A-E). For example, activating Pipeplus (2nd hierarchical level after the root node) will display Pmail (the 3rd hierarchical level).

Guerrero discloses removing the multiple third hierarchy level and displaying the multiple second hierarchy labels. For example, selecting a second navigational bar which is *Pipeplus* displays the sub nodes of *Pipeplus*, which are Download, Etc, Eudora, Ewan, etc, Fig. 6A. The third navigational bar is Pmail (Fig.6B), selecting the second navigational bar (Pipeplus) while the third navigational bar (Pmail) is displayed will remove the third navigational bar (column 7, lines 10-44, column 7, lines 66-column 8, lines 11, column 8, lines 43-63).

But Guerrero does not show expressly displaying an activation icon associated with the first hierarchy label.

Chittu, On the other hand discloses a collapser layer 46, wherein the collapser collapses a selected level such as a third hierarchy level and expands or displays a selected level such as a second hierarchy level (see Chittu, Fig. 3, and paragraphs [0027], [0086] through [0091]).

Chittu and Guerrero are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is manipulating hierarchical tree structure.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the collapse layer (activation icon) of Chittu with path list 504 of the hierarchy tree as specified by Guerrero.

The motivation/suggestion for doing so would have been to save space during display of hierarchical application. That is, since hierarchical nodes are represented with a collapse layer (+/-), and since unselected intermediate node (siblings) are not displayed, the hierarchical application can be displayed in a minimum display area (Chittu, [0003]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Guerrero with Chittu to obtain the invention of claim 15.

With regard to claim 46:

Guerrero in view of Chittu further discloses collapsing a node of the stacked box metaphor (Chittu, paragraph [0087]). Guerrero in view of Chittu further discloses displaying the tree structure with the collapsed node, the children of the collapsed node and the direct ancestors of the collapsed node (Chittu, Figs. 2, 7A-H, paragraphs [0027, [0087] through [0091],

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerrero (US Pat No 6,236,400) in view of Lindberg et al (US Pat No 6,732,109).

With regard to claim 7:

While Guerrero discloses a browser that is populated using HTML data structure, but Guerrero does not disclose that the browser is populated using XML data structure.

Lindberg, on the other hand, discloses a user interface that preferably includes a browser located on a computer, and is displayed as a plurality of web pages generated from a plurality of entities in a mark up language (such as HTML or XML) (column 4, lines 64-column 5, lines 9).

Lindberg and Guerrero are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is manipulating hierarchical tree structure.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to replace the HTML of Guerrero with XML of Lindberg because as specified by Lindberg any one of the markup languages can be incorporated to the browser. Furthermore, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, XML is a meta-markup language that provides a format better than HTML for describing structured data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Guerrero with Lindberg to obtain the invention of claim 7.

8. Claims 3, 12-14, 20-21, 35-36, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerrero (US Pat No 6,236,400) in view of Janes et al (US Pat No 6,642,946).

With regard to claim 3:

Guerrero discloses that the vertical browser display a file system Fig.1, 102 that allows a user to categorize or group files. As illustrated in Figs. 6A-F, a representation

Art Unit: 2173

of hierarchical file structure is grouped vertically into several different (non-homogeneous) directories or hierarchy levels (such as *Root node (/)* to *Pipeplus*, *Pmail*, and *Resource*) and the directories or hierarchy levels includes uniform (homogeneous) attributes, that is selectable child documents or leaf nodes (index) (column 6, lines 27-46, Fig. 6C, 506).

But Guerrero's browser fails to display one or more tabs associated with the one or more attributes or choices 506, Fig. 6C of the information.

Janes discloses tabs associated with one or more nodes or attributes (see Figs. 4A and 4B).

Jones and Guerrero are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is manipulating hierarchical tree structure.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the designated selectable bar icons of Guerrero with multiple index tabs because the tabbed index pages provide data summaries and details of the tree node selected by the user. Furthermore, the user is able to easily navigate through the data and obtain snap shots of the data presented in meaningful ways (see Janes, column 14, lines 3-10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Guerrero with Janes to obtain the invention of claim 3.

With regard to claim 12:

As illustrated in Figs. 6A-6E, Guerrero discloses a user interface 502 displaying hierarchical file system information, wherein activation of any one of the choices list 506

(second hierarchy) displays the information associated with the activated label (column 2, lines 3-10), also as illustrated in Fig. 6C, the information indexed (610A-E) according to one or more attributes (type of document) (column 8, lines 21-52, column 9, lines 12-23).

While Guerrero discloses displaying, and activating a node designated by selectable bar icon in the hierarchy, but Guerrero does not disclose multiple index tabs associated with one or more of the attributes. Janes, on the other hand, discloses multiple tabs associated with one or more nodes or attribute of a node (see Figs. 4A and 4B).

Jones and Guerrero are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is manipulating hierarchical tree structure.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the designated selectable bar icons of Guerrero with multiple index tabs because the tabbed index pages provide data summaries and details of the tree node selected by the user. Furthermore, the user is able to easily navigate through the data and obtain snap shots of the data presented in meaningful ways (see Janes, column 14, lines 3-10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Guerrero with Janes to obtain the invention of claim 12.

With regard to claim 13:

As shown in Figs. 6A-E, Guerrero in view of Janes further discloses that the one or more of the displayed hierarchy levels are stacked as navigation bars from a root level to a lowest hierarchy level (see Guerrero, path list 504, Figs. 6A-E).

With regard to claim 14:

Again, as illustrated in Figs. 6A-E, Guerrero in view of Janes further discloses that the displayed information is stacked below the lowest hierarchy level. For example, as shown in Fig. 6C, the lowest hierarchy level is *Resource* (608D), and information (610A-E) is stacked below the lowest hierarchy level (see Guerrero, column 8, lines 21-33).

With regard to claim 20:

Guerrero in view of Janes discloses information is further indexed by an attribute (see Janes, Figs. 2F-J, 4A-B, 10A-B) the user interface further having multiple index tabs associated with the information and operable to display information having the attribute (see Janes, Figs. 2F-J, 4A-B, 10A-B).

With regard to claim 21:

Guerrero in view of Janes discloses the user interface (browser **502**) further having a scroll bar **624** associated with the information and operable to scroll through the information without affecting the presentation of the stacked nodes (see Guerrero, Figs. 6A-E).

With regard to claim 35:

Guerrero in view of Janes discloses that the data is represented by tabs associated with the one or more attributes (see Janes, Figs. 2F-J, 4A-B, 10A-B).

Art Unit: 2173

With regard to claim 36:

Guerrero in view of Janes further discloses that the selection of a tab displays data associated with the tab and conceals other data associated with the selected descendant node (see Janes, Figs. 2F-J, 4A-B, 10A-B).

With regard to claim 40:

Guerrero in view of Janes discloses that each indice is represented by a tab (see Janes, Figs. 2F-J, 4A-B, 10A-B).

9. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerrero (US Pat No 6,236,400) in view of Janes et al (US Pat No 6,642,946) as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Chittu et al (US Pub No 2002/0107892).

Guerrero in view of Janes discloses a navigational bar (Guerrero, Figs. 6A-E). Guerrero in view of Janes also discloses that the navigation bar is selectable as illustrated via position indicator, or marquee 622 (e.g., a dotted line marquee, is used to indicate the current position of the "cursor". Guerrero in view of Janes further discloses removing the multiple third hierarchy level and displaying the multiple second hierarchy labels. For example, selecting a second navigational bar which is *Pipeplus* displays the sub nodes of *Pipeplus*, which are *Download, Etc, Eudora, Ewan*, etc, Fig. 6A). The third navigational bar is Pmail, selecting the second navigational bar (Pipeplus) while the third navigational bar (Pmail) is displayed will remove the third navigational bar (Guerrero, column 7, lines 10-44, column 7, lines 66-column 8, lines 11, column 8, lines 43-63).

But Guerrero in view of Janes does not show expressly displaying, and activating an activation icon.

Chittu, on the other hand discloses a dynamic tree control system. The dynamic tree control system includes among other things, one or more tree node layers. Each tree node layer in turn can contain a collapse layer 46 (activation icon), a node icon layer, and a caption on label layer (Chittu, Fig. 3). The collapse layer 46 when activated displays the hierarchy level associated with the sub-node of the navigation bar (see paragraphs [0087]).

Chittu and Guerrero and Janes are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is manipulating hierarchical tree structure.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the collapse layer (activation icon) of Chittu with path list 504 of the hierarchy tree as specified by Guerrero in view of Janes.

The motivation/suggestion for doing so would have been to save space during display of hierarchical application. That is, since hierarchical nodes are represented with a collapse layer (+/-), and since unselected intermediate node (siblings) are not displayed, the hierarchical application can be displayed in a minimum display area (Chittu, [0003]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Guerrero and Janes with Chittu to obtain the invention of claim 16.

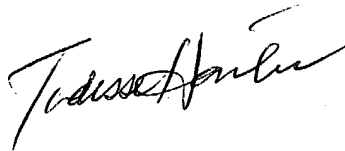
Conclusion

Art Unit: 2173

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 6:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at (703) 308-3116 Art Unit 2173 CPK 2-4A51.

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tadesse Hailu
July 8, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tadesse Hailu", written in black ink.